

## This summer a Taste to remember ■ Plus: a list of things to do now that it's over

By **BETH VOIGT**  
*Features Writer*

Graced with fabulous weather, awesome food, great entertainment and lots of fun for everyone, the 38th Annual Taste of Champaign hosted thousands of people from Champaign-Urbana and surrounding areas throughout the third weekend of June.

Featuring food and treats from 25 restaurants, four stages of bands and entertainment, karaoke, pony rides and inflatables for the kids, and 50 artisans showcasing their work and talents, this year's Taste had something for just about everyone.

Featured bands included the Boat Drunks on Friday, Backyard Tire Fire on Saturday, and Tons O Fun on Sunday. Additionally, six artisans held dem-

onstrations of their respective crafts—for only \$4 you could purchase a spinning top that Jerry Rhoads had just created before your eyes.

Opening day, though it was only four hours long, was the second-best day for ticket sales in the event's history. The addition of a second Ticket Tent this year made ticket sales—nine for \$5—easier and faster than ever before.

Part of the proceeds from the Taste of Champaign benefit the Champaign Park District's Youth Scholarship Fund, which helps underprivileged kids participate in recreational programs.

Recent Parkland graduate and Campus Tech employee Lisa Clow attended the Taste for the first time this year. Impressed with everything from the food to

the entertainment to how clean the park was she said she'd definitely bring friends next year.

"I had a Muffuletta from McAlister's, and it was delicious," she said. "And those air-conditioned restroom trailers... kudos to those guys!"

"It's encouraging to see Parkland being so well received," Clow added, handing out stickers and pins promoting 88.7 WPCD, Parkland's radio station.

"It's good for the community and it's good for Parkland," said student trustee Mark Shirley. "For the people who might not want or be able to come out to campus, it's easier to get information about Parkland in a relaxed atmosphere."

This year, the Taste of Champaign used recycled paper in their tickets, maps, and other materials. Promoters were also encouraging patrons to be more "green" by providing recycling bins next to each trash receptacle and near exit paths.

To further promote "green" behavior, a bike corral was set up in the southwest corner of West Side Park by Champaign County Bikes. Every person who bicycled to the event received a free beverage from one of the Pepsi tents.

Did you miss the Taste of Champaign? Don't worry, there's still plenty of summer fun to be had out there. These are only a few of the places around town that you can get outside and enjoy the great summer weather.

The following list is by no means comprehensive; if there's something we've missed and you think we should tell the

world about, let us know at [prospectusnews.com](http://prospectusnews.com).

### Neighborhood Nights Concerts

Urbana, Wednesdays through  
August 13

Free entertainment! Free popcorn! Every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8pm, a different band will be featured at a different park around Urbana. There are family-friendly games at each concert, as well as opportunities to speak with park district and city officials, information about the U-Cycle program, and a chance to sign up for the Urbana Free Library's summer reading program. Bring a blanket and catch The Prairie Dogs at Southridge Park on July 2nd, or visit [www.urbanaparks.org/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/) events to find out where the next free show will be.

### Streetfest Champaign, July 12 and August 9

Dance with a drink in the middle of the street when downtown Champaign closes the roads for Streetfest. On July 12, featured bands include One Night Stand and Mister Sister, and Tall Tale, Krukid, Elsinore, and the Headlights will be playing the final Streetfest of the summer on August 9. Free except for the beer and snacks you'll inevitably buy from local establishments, these concerts begin at 7pm. For a full schedule of the Champaign Park Districts free summer concerts, visit [www.champaignparkdistrict.com/events/concerts.htm](http://www.champaignparkdistrict.com/events/concerts.htm).

### Urbana's Market at the Square Urbana, Saturdays through November 8

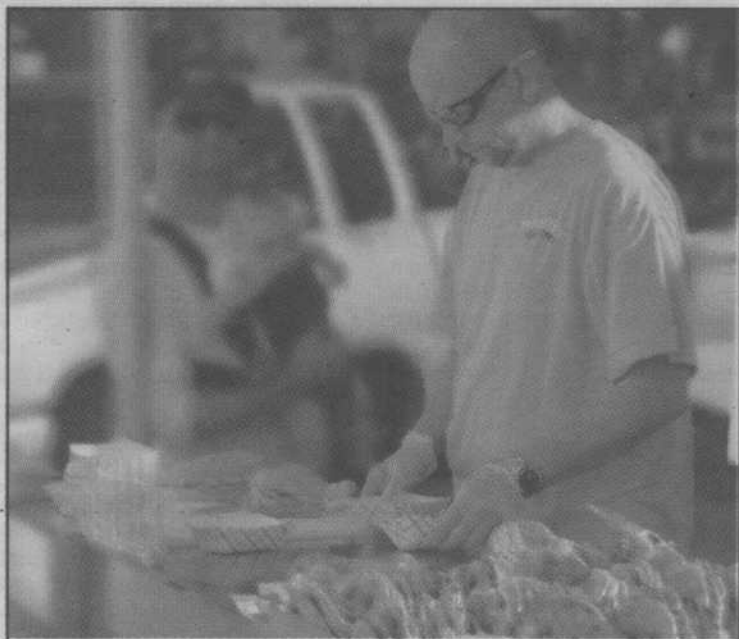
Every Saturday morning, rain or shine, the parking lot at the corner of Illinois and Vine Streets turns into Urbana's Market on the Square from 7am to noon. Want some tomatoes without the salmonella? The Market on the Square is the best place to get fresh, locally-grown produce. One of the biggest farmers' markets in Illinois with over 150 vendors, it also features crafts from local artisans, information about local community groups, and live sets from local performers. Call (217) 384-2319 for information. They even have a Facebook page!

### Champaign County Fair Urbana, July 18-28

Whether you're just going to munch some fried snacks and lemon shake-ups, cheer on your cousin's goats at the livestock judging, or witness the carnage of the demolition derby, the Champaign County Fair has something for you. Always a great people-watching opportunity, the Fair only costs \$5. Tickets for the midway rides are \$1 each, just don't eat too many corndogs before you ride. To find out when the truck pull is or how to enter the talent show, visit [www.prairienet.org/ccfair](http://www.prairienet.org/ccfair) or call 217-367-8461.

### 5th Annual Downtown Festival of the Arts Champaign, August 16

See **Now** on page 4



Look what's inside! Want more? Go to [www.prospectusnews.com](http://www.prospectusnews.com) for updates.

Taste

4th

Race

## Prospectus

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• The Prospectus welcomes letters to the editor. We accept submissions from the Parkland community and the public. The editor will also consider original works of fiction and short writings if space is available.

• The rules of correspondence: all submissions must be signed with a phone number and address. The Prospectus staff must verify the identity of letter writers. Correspondence may be edited to accommodate the space requirements of the paper. The deadline for all submissions is 12 p.m. of the Thursday immediately before the upcoming issue.



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# CHUCK SHEPHERD'S NEWS OF THE WEIRD

By **CHUCK SHEPHERD**

*Lead Story*

After languishing for two years in the Irish legislature, the Nuclear Test Ban Bill of 2006 has recently been rethought and refurbished, according to a June report in the Irish Independent. Originally, the bill codified the U.N. Test Ban Treaty, adding some provisions specific to Ireland. Among those additions was the punishment for anyone detonating a nuclear weapon in Ireland: up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine of up to 5,000 euros (then, around \$6,500), along with language that might even allow a person found guilty to apply for first-offense probation. The proposed punishment this time is expected to be considerably harsher.

### Can't Possibly Be True

•In the 1920s, when inmate "chain gangs" were in their heyday, Alabama sheriffs were allotted a prison meal budget of \$1.75 per prisoner per day, with thrifty sheriffs allowed to pocket any excess for themselves. According to a May Associated Press investigation, the policy, and the amount, are unchanged to this day in 55 of the state's 67 counties, and also unchanged is the fact that sheriffs have cut the menus so cleverly or drastically that some sheriffs still make money on the deal. (The per-meal fee under the National School Lunch program for low-income students is \$2.47.)

•Mr. Gokhan Mutlu filed a lawsuit in May against JetBlue Airways for more than \$2 million after he was ordered out of his seat by the captain during a full New York-to-California flight and told to stand up or go "hang out in the bathroom" for the duration. Mutlu had only a gift ticket, and an off-duty JetBlue employee who had originally agreed to sit in the cockpit jump seat changed her mind and thus was given Mutlu's seat. Mutlu pointed out that he was un-seat-belted during turbulence and during the landing.

•Not Exactly Hard Time: (1) In May, St. Catharines, Ontario, judge Stephen Glithero released Wayne Ryczak on 14 months' jail time already served, as punishment for strangling a prostitute in his trailer home. He claimed self-defense (improbable in such a strangulation), but had

pleaded guilty to manslaughter, requesting via his lawyer a two-year sentence. (2) Last year, Stephanie Grissom, driving 71 mph in a 55-mph zone, accidentally struck and killed a Howard County, Md., traffic officer when he stepped onto the highway to motion for her to pull over. In May 2008, the case was closed, with Grissom fined \$310 and three points on her record.

•Vendors in Qingdao, China (where Olympic sailing events will take place in August), were reportedly selling, as unofficial Olympics souvenirs, key rings with heart-shaped plastic charms that contained live (at least temporarily) goldfish suspended in water. Animal protection advocates were incredulous, according to a June report in the Sydney Morning Herald.

### Unclear on the Concept

•Denmark has already aroused Muslims' ire for a Danish newspaper's publishing blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in 2006, and in June, the country's public broadcast channel DR1 sponsored an Internet-voting contest to choose among women (presumably Muslims) modeling headscarves. The winner was 18-year-old Huda Falah, who is Iraqi and one of the 46 women who submitted photographs. DR1 insisted that the contest was more about fashionable headscarves than a beauty contest for the models. Among the prizes: an iPod and a subscription to Muslim Girl magazine.

•"This proves that we are normal," said the founder of the Liberty Gay Rodeo Association in May during the organization's event in a Philadelphia suburb. The sight of rugged cowboys and cowgirls, she said, dispels some sexual stereotypes that have plagued gays and lesbians. However, among the events (besides traditional steer riding and calf roping) was "goat dressing" (with pairs of contestants trying to put hot-pink underwear on an uncooperative goat in the shortest time, according to a Reuters report).

•After motorist Mark Holder, 30, had a seizure in Boynton Beach, Fla., in June, his car swerved off the road and smashed into a sign, badly injuring him. Emergency workers arrived and, protecting against possible nerve damage, attempted to put a brace on to

stabilize his neck. However, Holder became combative, and sheriff's deputies reported that they were forced to shoot Holder "several times" with a Taser to calm him enough that the brace could be fitted.

### People With Issues

(1) In Singapore in June, a 36-year-old man was sentenced to 14 years in jail and 18 strokes of the cane after he was convicted of 23 counts of molesting women on elevators and other places, mostly by sniffing their armpits. (2) In June, a masochist, with tastes similar to those of the Ontario man reported here three months ago, was sentenced to four years in jail for encouraging two underage girls near Bicester, England, to kick him repeatedly in the groin until he could no longer handle the pain.

### Least Competent Criminals

Not Ready for Prime Time: (1) James Milsom, 21, was arrested in Avon and Somerset, England, in June after a hidden camera in a police bait car caught him breaking in and swiping the GPS device. It was his third arrest in four months for breaking into a police bait car to steal a GPS (caught by the hidden camera each time). (2) In June, Reno, Nev., homicide detective David Jenkins was sitting in his unmarked car (but one with emergency lights on the dash and a police radio blaring away) when Mercedes Green, 19, hopped in and, yelling to be heard over the radio, propositioned him for sex. "You're not the police, are you?" she asked. "What do you think," he said. "I didn't think so," the street-wise woman replied. After her arrest, Green explained: "You wear glasses, and I didn't think police could wear them."

### Update

Luxury toilets were introduced in hygiene-sensitive Japan in the 1970s, and within 20 years, models were available to automatically heat bottom-splashing water, take health readings of bodily emissions, and supply music and "white noise" to mask the movements, as News of the Weird noted in 1990 and 2001. Though the world is more environmentally conscious, and Japan is among

the leaders among industrial nations in energy conservation, the country has not been able to shake its obsession with smart toilets, which consume more electricity than dishwashers or clothes dryers, according to a June Washington Post dispatch from Tokyo. Said one energy consultant, "For hygiene-conscious Japanese, the romance with these toilets is equivalent to the American romance with the Hummer."

### The Aristocrats!

A 28-year-old woman, unnamed by the Kitsap (Wash.) Sun, was arrested in May and charged with stealing her husband's wallet and subsequently assaulting an arresting officer. According to deputies, she had awakened her husband, 24, demanding sex, but he had rebuffed her by insisting that from that point on, the two of them would quit smoking, drinking and cussing, limit their sexual activities and be "good Christians." Part or all of that did not sit well with the wife, and police arrived to witness her screaming (described as "blood-curdling"), swearing, slamming doors and complaining about her unsatisfactory sex life, while carrying around a large bottle of whiskey. At one point, she allegedly tossed the couple's 20-pound dog at a deputy (who caught it safely).

### Readers' Choice

(1) Two young men and a juvenile were charged in May in Houston with corpse abuse after they allegedly dug into a grave in a cemetery in the town of Humble, removed the head, and took it away in order to use it as a bong for smoking marijuana. (2) Jorge Espinal, 44, was taken to a hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, in May after an early-morning incident (alcohol was involved) in which he used a loaded handgun to scratch a hand-to-reach itch on his back and accidentally shot himself.

(Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at <http://NewsoftheWeird.blogspot.com> or [www.NewsoftheWeird.com](http://www.NewsoftheWeird.com). Send your Weird News to [WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com](mailto:WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com) or P.O. Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679.)

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## The new faces of racism and discrimination

By **AARON GEIGER**  
Prospectus Editor

There appears to be a new trend in racism and discrimination these days: high school and college-age students who have learned the mistakes of their parents and grandparents. Or have they? There is a growing consensus of academics and college-age adults—racism has only taken new faces. Mostly gone are the days of using outright language and discrimination. Instead are new thinking and feeling groups of students and teachers who think they're doing the right thing, but are they?

By all accounts and purposes, Scott is a normal college kid; he grew up in a satellite city not far from Champaign, he played sports, and almost joined the Army. He says that he has a few "minority friends." But Scott has a secret that he decided to share with the Prospectus: he fears that he's racist without ever knowing how it happened.

"I grew up tolerant of other people. I actually argued against racist family members or friends. They would use the word "nigger" in a sentence, and I would say, "That's totally uncalled for." But today I'm having many issues with blacks—especially students," said Scott.

He emphasizes that he feels this way because of cultural differences that he deems "disrespectful" or "disruptive" to society as a whole.

"I don't look at black people

and think of using the N-word, and I don't think they're less intelligent or less equal. But I've reached a point. Too many [black students] refer to women as 'bitches.' Too many think that dealing drugs is acceptable because of the 'position that they were put in by society.' Too many are promoting a lifestyle

ing the same types of behavior?" he said. "As if there are no white drug dealers...as if it were mainly a race issue. People say, 'I don't see color. I don't see race,' but they say, 'they do THESE things...' It's presumed natural for a white person to have opportunity, and for others to take that away."

having lots of children and were being irresponsible—making obvious references to [a minority group] without saying it—and were receiving financial aid over her. She was indignant. She didn't stop to think that financial aid was not an exclusive right of hers," said Hurt.

That same student didn't realize it, but she was exhibiting racial bias by the simple fact that she felt entitled to certain privileges. But what about Scott?

"Because so many [black students] do so many of these unacceptable things, I can't just look at a black peer and think highly of him. Is that my fault? No. Does that make me a racist? I hope not, because I hate the actions of certain people. I can't say this in public or I'm wrong. I'm a bigot and my opinion doesn't count. I'm sick of it," said Scott.

Former history teacher Kevin Hales doesn't balk at talk like this, and it comes in handy as a teacher and educator. "I think ultimately you have to look into the mirror, and ask yourself if you can talk to your students—or colleagues for that matter—about race without flinching," he said. "If you have cancer, not talking about it doesn't make it go away."

Scott doesn't use harsh language, and he is quick to point out that he doesn't feel like he's racist; that he has no choice. Or does he?

Tiana Harris is a sophomore at Parkland, learning Spanish

and elementary education. She hasn't experienced outright discrimination, but has experienced subtleties in the way people perceive her. "I'm a town girl. Sometimes the way I dress makes people not really know who I am. They would never know that I was in band, that I play the flute, that I was on the Student Council," she said.

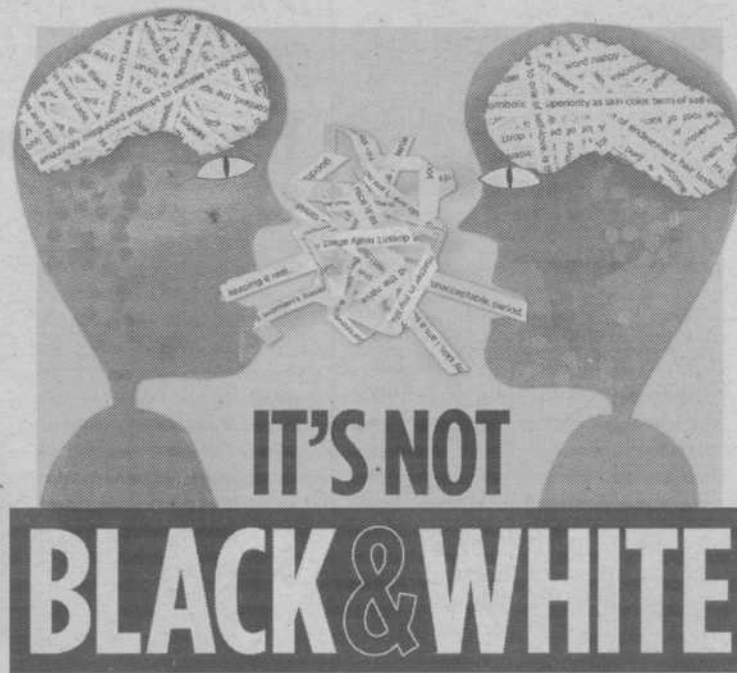
"You know, most African Americans feel inferior to whites...it's a learned process. I'm to the point now where I feel confident and not inferior to anybody," she said.

Tiana credits the role of teachers in helping her get to where she is now. "I believe that it helps when people are around in a diversified crowd, and when they have a teacher that can reach everyone. I have seen a new side to things because of what teachers can do."

Meet Angela: she's a white sophomore that is scared of black men. Angela is also very quick to demonstrate that she not only doesn't want to feel this way, but that she thinks it's the fault of certain young black men that make her feel this way.

"More often than not, when I'm walking on a street at night and I pass by a black man or group of men, I get scared. And it's usually because they're dressed like they're in a gang; they stare at my chest, or make a comment," she said.

"I believe young black men feel the need to be tough. I have



that is unacceptable in a healthy society," said Scott.

Associate Professor of Humanities Matthew Hurt is quick to respectfully refute the type of thinking that Scott exhibits. "What about the other students who are also exhibit-

After teaching diverse groups of students for years, Hurt has come across many instances where students "get things a little backward."

"For instance, in a writing class I had a student who was angry that 'other girls who were

See **Race** on page 10

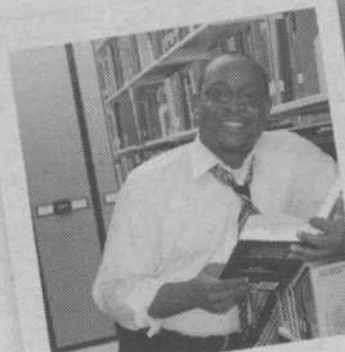


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# Local/Parkland

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## NOW

continued from page 1

Held along Neil and Main in downtown Champaign, the Festival of the Arts features artists of all types displaying their talents and original artwork. Painting, sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, and even live performances are highlighted as the best artists around gather to offer up their talents. There will also be music playing all day, and the main entertainment tent will be open from 11am to 8pm. This free festival is sure to introduce a bit more culture to your life than those reality show reruns ever could.

### 33rd Annual Urbana Sweetcorn Festival Urbana, August 22-23

The Urbana Sweetcorn Festival is Champaign County's oldest festival. Full of free live music, arts and crafts, some crazy person in a corn suit, food, beer, and (of course) sweetcorn, last year's festival welcomed about 40,000 people and hosted performances from The Boat Drunks, Mark Harris, and Parliament Funkadelic. Always looking for volunteers to slather on the butter, contact the Urbana Business Association at 217.344.3872 for more information.

### Allerton Park Monticello

Open year round from 8am to dusk, Allerton Park in Monticello is full of beautiful gardens and woodland trails. Dotted with statuary collected by Robert Allerton throughout his life, the park is a great place to spend the day with a date or some friends. And, it's FREE! (Donations are accepted, of course.) Additionally, their Music in Nature series, held on the third Saturday of each month through October, draws crowds to the Gate House lawn from 5-9pm. Fresh sandwiches and salads are available to purchase at each concert, with themed foods throughout the summer. Call 217-333-3287 or email [AllertonInfo@uiuc.edu](mailto:AllertonInfo@uiuc.edu) for more information. Their visitors' center is also open 9am-5pm daily through November.

### Kickapoo State Park Oakwood

Although it's way out near Danville, Kickapoo State Park is the place to go for hiking, canoe-

ing, trout fishing, camping, bird watching, hunting, scuba diving, and biking some great trails. There are 12 boat ramps on nine of the park's 22 lakes, and miles of well-marked trails. There are 184 sites for tent and trailer camping, six picnic areas with shelters, tables, and grills, and canoe, kayak, tube and boat rentals. You can buy firewood, ice, bait, and even a full meal at the Dockside Cafe, open 7am-8pm daily. They also host live music every Tuesday and Friday throughout the summer from 5:30-7:30pm. Visit [www.kickapoolanding.com](http://www.kickapoolanding.com) or call 217-446-8399 to find out more.

### Busey Woods Urbana

Want somewhere you can get out into nature without the drive? Busey Woods in Urbana, near Crystal Lake Park and Pool, is just big enough to feel like you're getting away without actually leaving the city. A 59-acre nature preserve with trails and a boardwalk loop, you can take a nice walk through the trees and still make it home for dinner. There are trained naturalists available and classes for all age groups and interests. Contact the Anita Purves Nature Center at 217-384-4062 to find out more, or just go out behind the Nature Center to find the entrance to the trails.

### Alto Vineyards Alto Pass and Champaign

Open from noon until 6, 7, or 8pm depending on the day, Alto Vineyards in Champaign is on Duncan north of Bloomington Road. Their popular Music Among the Vines concert series, held on Saturdays from 7:30-10:30pm, run through the end of September with a variety of music and delicious wines for you to try. Their 7th Annual Fall Festival will be on September 13, featuring the Delta Kings and Candy Foster & Shades of Blue. They also will be holding their Fall Color Festival at their Alto Pass location on October 11-12. To find out more about what's going on at Alto Vineyards, call 618-893-4898 or visit [www.altovineyards.net](http://www.altovineyards.net).

### Curtis Orchard Late July - Mid December

Right down the road and now easier than ever to get to with the new Curtis Road exit off of I-57, Curtis Orchard will be opening for the season on July

20. There are 5,000 apple trees and 20 acres of pumpkins on this 80-acre farm where you can pick your own apples right off the tree or discover your perfect jack-o-lantern still on the vine. Open from 11am to 5pm daily, you can pick up some of their fresh-baked donuts, pies and cobbler any time. In September and October, the Flying Monkey Café sells delicious homemade lunches, and they host live entertainment every Sunday. Weekend activities like a corn maze, gem mining, an obstacle course and pony rides are great fun for the kids. Visit [www.curtisorchard.com](http://www.curtisorchard.com) to get the details on what's available, or give them a call at 217-359-5565.

### Prairie Farm Champaign

Open from 1-7pm daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, Prairie Farm features traditional farm animals including sheep, pigs, goats, horses, cows, chickens, and geese. They offer programs and classes for kids, a petting area open from 3-5pm (weather permitting), and special events like Flashlight Scavenger Hunts and horse drawn trolley rides. You can schedule a tour of the farm or reserve a space for a birthday party, or just wander through the garden and watch the geese in the pond. Admission to Prairie Farm is FREE, but they always appreciate donations to help feed the critters. Call the Champaign Park District's Leisure Line at 217-398-2589 for more details about meeting some goats.

### Rockome Gardens Arcola

Yes, there are beautiful formal gardens here, full of rock sculptures and gorgeous plants and flowers. But did you know that you can go horseback riding, kayaking, fishing, tepee camping, or take a buggy ride here, too? Want to play tic tac toe with a chicken? It's only a quarter, but she's pretty good! Watch master craftsmen and artisans at work, including a blacksmith and glass blower. Ride the horse that runs the world's only horse-powered sawmill and sit in the giant rocking chair before a traditional meal of good Amish cooking at the Rockome Gardens Family Style restaurant. Not quite breakfast at Millways, but close enough. Check their calendar at [www.rockome.com](http://www.rockome.com) to see what's scheduled.

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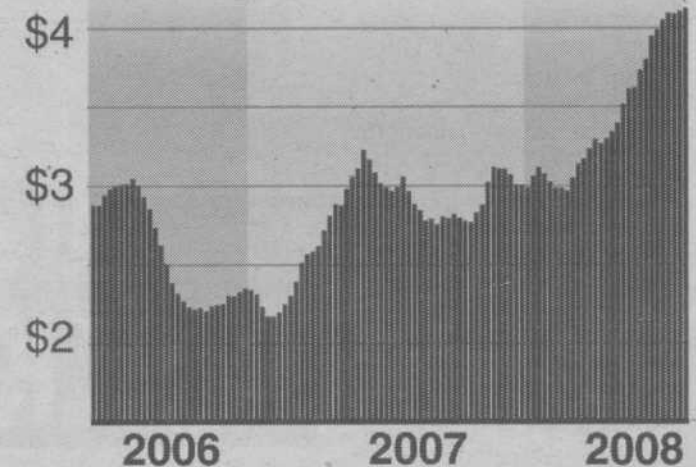


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## Million dollar babies

A PERSPECTIVE  
By NADA YOUSSEF

Being a college student, or any student for that matter, can be depressing. There is never any time for the self or the inner Zen. But this summer I found that what I just told you is a myth. With time management and proper dedication, students can find their inner peace.

I am taking a summer class, I have a job, and I'm learning the art of boxing. When people hear that I box, they get a little surprised because I'm a girl that stands 5'2". Well, I've managed to do so and find it very relaxing. I have found that boxing has let me get in touch with my inner peace and has given me many more benefits—breaking the myths that many students have about taking up different activities.

I train at the Lifelines boxing center with Coach Nelson Lugando, a three-time Golden Gloves champion. The biggest piece of advice he has given me is "time is your best friend." This is great advice, but where could I find the time to do so many things as a student with a hectic schedule?

After two months of hardcore training, I found four people—who are planning to attend an amateur boxing competition sometime this month—who answered all of my questions about student boxing. I call these extraordinary talents the million dollar babies. I sat with each of them and talked about boxing and how it can fit into busy schedules and the many benefits that come with the sport.

If there is one thing that boxing has taught me, it is time management. Coach Nelson's son, Nathan Lugando—a 15-year-old of Centennial High School—has been boxing since he was six. Since Nathan grew up in a boxing environment, he had no choice but to live and breathe boxing. Although Nathan goes to school and works at Ants in Your Pants, he still finds time to box three days a week.

"It's hard, but I have to work around it," he said. He plans to become an engineer in his near future.

Other than time management, boxing allows students to pursue their goals in life. University of Illinois student Dan

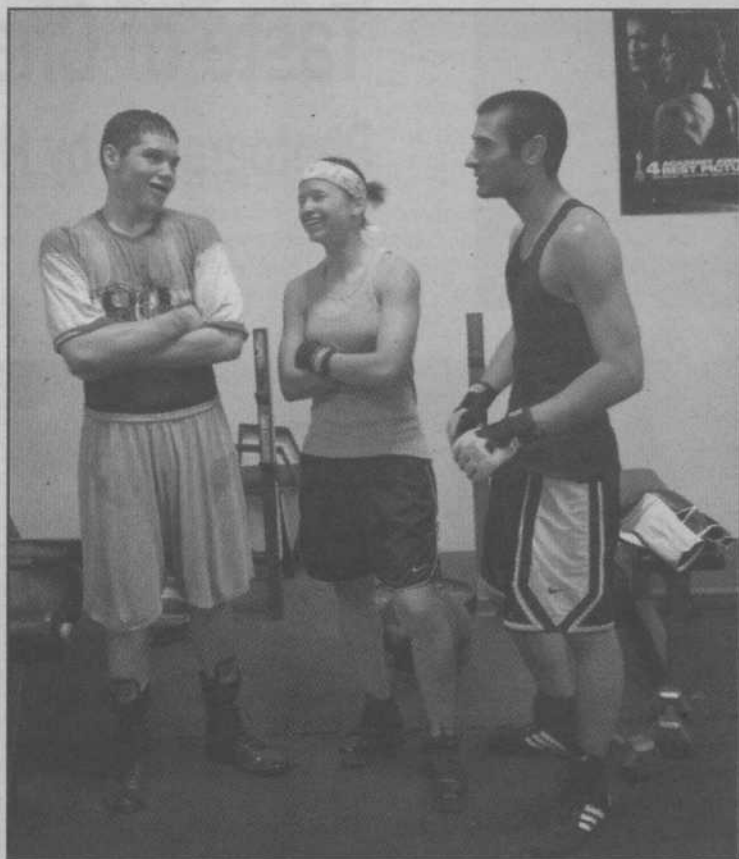
Caminiti, 21, has been boxing for one year. He doesn't want to go pro, but wants to be a lawyer instead, proving that college students can do anything they set their minds to. What does he feel about his first competition coming up?

"I don't want to overthink it. I trust myself and that's all that matters," Caminiti said.

So what are the benefits of boxing? For one thing, it is a great stress reliever, which many students need. Jenny Hammond, 25, is a soccer coach for Eastern Illinois University. She is my favorite million dollar baby because she's representing for the girls. She has only been boxing for a few months and is ready for an amateur competition. Not only is Jenny pursuing boxing, but she also plans to go pro next year in the woman's soccer league. Why does Jenny, coach extraordinaire, take up boxing? "It's a great work-out, all of my worries go away, and I could get my anger and stress out in a controlled manner," she said.

Another great benefit boxing can give to students is that it will get you into shape, which all students need to keep up with their fast paced lives. Miguel Rivera III, 18, is a Parkland College hopeful, and he's been training for three years. Rivera got into boxing because his beloved aunt died of AIDS, and she loved to watch boxing matches. Boxing has helped Miguel a great deal; he went from 255 lbs to 152 lbs. "It is hard work, but you get many opportunities, too. You get to travel, meet new people, and gain recognition," said Rivera. Miguel is looking to become a policeman in the future, but if an opportunity to become pro came his way, than that's what he would pursue.

So, what are you waiting for? Boxing is a great sport that students should consider for this fall. There are so many benefits others as well as myself have gotten from boxing. For now I'm only a 50-cent baby, but I know if I keep at it, that I will someday be worth a million.



Jenny Hammond, Dan Caminiti, and Miguel Rivera pause for a moment during a bout of intense boxing training. The benefits and rewards are great, but so is the work.

Haumin Wang/Prospectus

## Death by Textbook III

A PERSPECTIVE  
By DANIEL KOLB

[Editor's Note: *Death by Textbook I & II* were both written by Kathleen Serino, and focused on the controversies and facts surrounding the prices and economics of textbooks, teachers, and prices]

It's something every student dreads. Class is beginning in ten minutes and the student hasn't gotten the book he needs for the course. And so he runs like mad to the bookstore where he discovers a whole bunch of people who are in the exact same boat. Hurry...he keeps telling himself. I have to make it in time...

You see someone writing a check for a set of pencils and wish he would just hurry up. With five minutes left he is the next person in line. And when he see the price ring up he's got a feeling it's going to be a long day.

Just recently State Representative Naomi Jakobsson of Urbana helped sponsor Senate Bill 326. This bill, if passed, would help lower the costs that students are paying when it comes to textbooks. Although she could not be reached for comment directly, Jakobsson said in an earlier press conference that she remembered that textbook costs were a huge expense for her children when they went to college and that now the prices have increased even more. The bill passed the House of Representatives 108-6 and is currently in the Senate.

An examination of Bill 326 reveals some interesting information. This bill creates the Textbook Consumer Act which among other things "requires college bookstores to make available a listing of all textbooks and supplementary learning materials that are required for courses taught during each term, which shall include new and used textbook retail prices." Under this bill, the guesswork in how much a textbook would cost would be made a lot easier.

The first amendment to this bill by the Senate requires that the public institution of learning "publish on the institution's Internet website or at other appropriate venues the title, author, International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and retail price of new and used textbooks within reasonable expediency

after the information becomes available, and requires the institution to ensure the availability of information regarding how current editions of textbooks differ from previous editions."

This doesn't sound all that important but it actually is really something special. If this law is passed, then no longer could colleges wait until the last possible minute to tell the students what the required text is so that they are pressured to buy from the college bookstore (you know who you are). With this wording it will give them time to shop around online or elsewhere and be able to get the book in time for class.

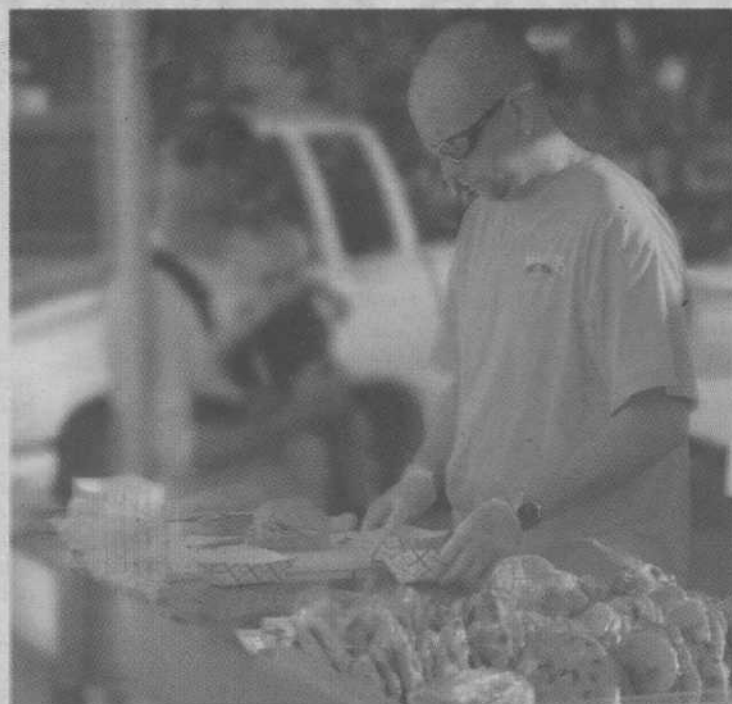
Finally another exciting provision in the measure from a student's point of view involves bundled packages. What is a bundled package you ask? Well, as a student have you ever purchased a textbook and you open it up and it has a CD/DVD or a workbook or a free trial for an online program you have never heard of? Speaking from experience I have and it drives me crazy, and these things needlessly add to the cost and only in extremely rare cases are used.

Everyone has their own story of annoyance. The CDs get caught in the spine of the book or jut out, earmarking the middle of the book for no apparent reason. Then the lecture starts and you are trying to turn to page 627 without getting a paper cut from, ironically, a cardboard advertisement for 15% off your next textbook. As for tearing out advertisements or online learning center trials: if it is a crime then it is a crime of passion because it feels great. But the textbook has the last laugh. After the semester is over when you try to sell the book back you either can't or you get a much lower price because that CD or workbook is missing.

Senate Bill 326 ends this nonsense and requires textbook companies to offer every single item separately so that in the .01% chance that you DO need that workbook you can buy it for a much cheaper price. I suppose you could say it's like getting your textbook a la carte.

For a lot of students, including me, this bill is an exciting prospect. It doesn't force the textbook companies to have to lower their prices arbitrarily,

See **Death** on page 10



## 38th Annual

# Taste of Champaign

Photography by Huamin Wang





unfavorable student loan market and borrower benefits for paying on-time or allowing e-payments have pretty much dried up. But you can consolidate directly with the government, through [www.loan-consolidation.ed.gov](http://www.loan-consolidation.ed.gov).

Student loans? You're forgiven: Consolidating through the direct loan program is the road to loan forgiveness for students planning at least a decade-long career in public service. The list of details is lengthy, so do your homework. The Project on Student Debt—[www.projectonstudentdebt.org](http://www.projectonstudentdebt.org)—is a good place to start.

The College Cost Reduction Act also provides upfront tuition assistance for students who commit to be teachers in high-need areas. Visit [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov) and look for TEACH Grant info. The same site also has a wealth of information about much of what I've covered here.

And speaking of free money, Pell grants for low-income students also increased, from \$4,241 to \$4,731. This is the first of five increases for the Pell.

(c) 2008, Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

**Top left:** Parkland students take to the streets of the Champaign Independence Day parade on the fourth of July. Parkland is currently servicing over 400 veterans.

Courtesy of Jody Littleton/*Prospectus*

**Bottom right:** Parkland was the home again to this year's fireworks display. Live entertainment, food, and great seats contributed to a spectacular show. Leaving the festivities was easier than last year.

Huamin Wang/*Prospectus*

## On your way to college? There's plenty of news this summer

By KARA MCGUIRE

Star Tribune (Minneapolis) (MCT)

Paying for college is a brow-furrowing challenge. But it's particularly confusing this year. From interest rate resets to loan providers exiting the market, there's so much going on that you could spend your summer sifting through the news. Instead, allow me.

Colleges going direct: Despite all the news about turmoil in the student loan markets, Joe and Jane College should be able to find the money they'll need. No question it's been a tough market for financing student loans, and because there are fewer incentives for lenders to offer federally guaranteed loans, 119 outfits have exited or taken breathers from the business in recent months, according to Finaid.org Publisher Mark Kantrowitz's tally. But financial aid directors are doing everything in their power to ensure that students aren't left loanless.

The turmoil has renewed interest in the Direct Loan Program run by the federal government. Many colleges are making the switch to government loans to guarantee that students will have access to funds. Without the switch, almost four in 10 borrowers returning to Macalester College in Minneapolis would have needed to switch lenders for the coming school year. At University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., more than half the students would have been in the same boat.

New Web tools for loans: Students in need of private loans have a growing list of resources at their fingertips. Green-note.com lets students borrow money from their social network at a rate rivaling federally guaranteed loans without needing a cosigner or a credit check. The

loans have a competitive fixed rate of 6.8 percent; borrowers also pay \$49 or a 2 percent "document fee." Lenders earn 5.8 percent on their money after Green-note takes a 1 percent administration fee. Virgin Money USA's Student Payback service ([www.virginmoneyus.com](http://www.virginmoneyus.com)) allows parents to borrow money for college from their preferred sources and then sets up a formal agreement for the students to pay back all or part of that debt. File an application with Tuitionbids.com, and lenders will bid on your loan. Simpletuition.com lets you compare various loan types for the best terms.

As always, look to federally guaranteed loans before shopping for alternatives. And read the fine print, even though you don't want to.

On July 1, a host of changes went into effect that should perk up the ears of students heading to school or making loan payments.

Rates went down: The fixed interest rate for new subsidized Stafford loans dropped Tuesday, from 6.8 to 6 percent; the unsubsidized rate stays the same, courtesy of the College Cost Reduction Act passed by Congress last year. The act cuts the rate in half over the next four years.

Stafford loans taken out before July 1, 2006, have variable rates that reset each year. This year, the rate dropped 3 percentage points, to 4.2 percent. This means it's a fine time to consolidate. If you don't, that sweet rate could go up in July 2009. If you do, you'll lock in at 4.2 percent. Recent graduates within their six-month grace period can lock in at 3.6 percent.

There aren't as many lenders offering consolidation loans because of the



## Band kids are wusses these days

A PERSPECTIVE  
By AARON GEIGER

This was the first year that I attended the Independence Day festivities in Champaign. Although I concluded my day at Parkland watching the fireworks and, more entertainingly, 40+ bobbing and bouncing children and adults waiting for a port-a-potty, I was fixated on how much I learned earlier by watching the parade that began on Lincoln and traveled down Kirby on the outer limits of the University of Illinois.

And by watching that parade, my girlfriend and I have concluded that band kids are wusses. All of 'em. At least around here. Before I dig into this, please keep in mind that on the Fourth of July, 2008, the temperature reached a thigh-melting 75 degrees. The first band kids that came marching down the road were wearing T-shirts and shorts. Let me repeat: they were wearing T-shirts and shorts. It was like a practice run on the first day of band camp. My girlfriend, who grew up in northern Illinois, and who once wielded an oboe and saxophone, was livid.

"Where are their uniforms?" she demanded.

I had to agree. When I was in marching band, it was in Texas. And we wore full polyester suits, severely uncomfortable rigid plastic hats with plumes, dress shoes, and white gloves—all in the Texas summer heat on the first day of football season. In the evenings, the temperature would still be around 100 with a good dollop of humidity. We all suffered, but we were one. And we were fine. Even the skinniest flute players would sweat it out with the fat bass drummer. When we got hot, we waved our sheet music and poured our spit valve juice down our necks. Well, not really, but you get the point.

When we went to competition in the winter, we wore the same thing, and although we were miserable in the cold, we didn't lose any ears or fingers, and our lips didn't stick to the brass mouthpieces. So what? So we were miserable some of the time. When we went to a game in late fall and the air temperature was just cool enough to make us feel normal, we rejoiced. It's not like I'm saying, "back in my

day we had it rough," because still today you don't see football players in the heat of a day switching to touch football in jogging shorts, mesh shirts, and soft cleats, pausing to "hydrate" with a carefully concocted electrolyte solution while being fanned by the coach.

So here we were, watching these kids march with no uniform, and then, as if on cue to really pick up the conversation my girlfriend and I were having, some mom-ish figure came rushing around with a squirt bottle, splashing water on the backs of the necks of the kids. They would smile and nod approvingly. Awwwww.

Are you kidding me? The only person breaking a sweat was Congressman Tim Johnson, as he was running back up the street, late for the parade (he later appeared on top of his parade car a few minutes later, traveling back the other way, smiling and dripping Republican dew).

As each band passed, more T-shirts and shorts, and every one of them had some mommy with a spray bottle. It was sacrilege.

But nothing was as entertaining as the "GunsSaveLife.com" wagon, equipped with an elderly couple that sat on the buckboard up front. The man was loading flash powder into some antiquarian pistol that the granny kept trying to fire up in the air. All but one of the five or so shots that we watched ended up in a misfire. What a propaganda wagon. And is it me, or does the saying "Guns Save Life" reveal an obvious oxymoron?

Yes, you've seen them on the highway; the "burma-style" signs that spell out catchy little rhymes as you speed down to see your uncle in Danville, all promoting the GunsSaveLife.com Web site:

**GUN CONTROL IS  
RACE CONTROL  
NOT CRIME CONTROL  
AND IT'S UNAMERICAN**

Or perhaps you've seen this one:

**VIOLENCE AROUND?  
WE HAVE FOUND  
FAMILIES WITH GUNS  
SLEEP SAFE AND SOUND**

So, not to turn this into a gun

control or race platform or anything—all I'm saying is that the people that thought this stuff up probably thought they were clever, and instead they're comic relief. The only problem is that they have guns and a misfiring granny.

Oh yeah, I forgot to mention on the front of their float was the Statue of Liberty with a machine gun wrapped around her torso. Yes, let's give Lady Liberty a weapon to show off to the tired, weak, and poor. What?

So we watched the right-wing gun-slingers. And later came the Green Party. I'm all for the Green Party, but watching them in the parade, I suddenly had a problem with them. After all of these years of reading Ralph Nader's consumerism warnings (most of which are heavily pertinent today after 35 years), I've

and the other half of the crowd clapped. And the Gay Marriage Rights people strutted by, and people stared and gasped. One young parading woman, obviously aware of the tension, called out "Happy Fourth of July!" and she was almost answered by a boy with a squirt gun who wanted to drench her just like everything else he doused in the parade with his oversized plastic tank of water, but stopped when he realized something was amiss when nobody was being friendly.

But the boy quickly jumped back into the fracas by attacking the soon-to-follow Shriners.

As a child, I have been baffled by the Shriners. As an adult, I'm even more perplexed. Here's my historic take on them, and I could be wrong, but this seems to be the consensus: some time

bly better than Guns Save Life Granny), but does that mean that's what they should represent on a float?

And the Girl Scouts, in all of their feminist freedoms and makings, are still reduced to chanting (with an echo), "Everywhere we go-ooo, people want to know-ow, who we arrrrre," etc. Somebody should give them the guns. People would take the Girl Scouts more seriously when being solicited to buy overpriced cookies.

In closing, I must confess, however, that I was pleased to see a few traditions that are alive and well in Illinois. For instance, people actually stood when the American flag passed by, men took their hats off, and some women covered their hearts with their right hand. Little snappish bratty kids suddenly grew quiet, and I suddenly felt like I had ownership in a country that I'm proud of.

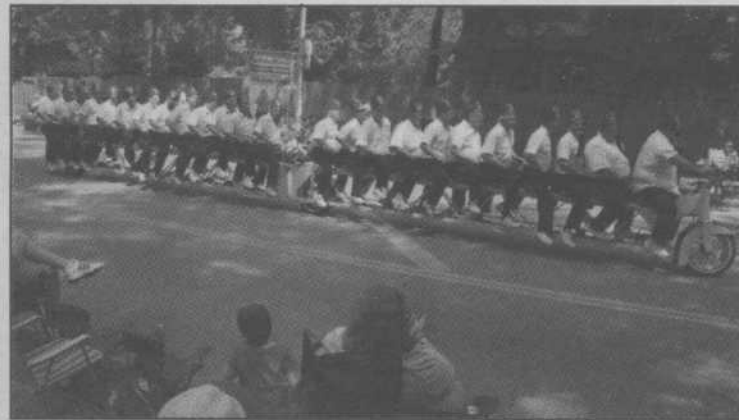
The crowd applauded the men and women in uniform, and shouted "thank you!" They did the same to the POWs and the American Legion, the Daughters of the Revolution and the Veterans Auxiliary groups. They hurrahed, to a lesser extent, the police and firefighters. And justly so.

I witnessed a parade in California, and I'm afraid the Guns Save Life people would have resorted to shooting the people who made fun of the elderly American Legion men who paraded the flag down Newport Avenue.

And while people still said thank you to the troops here in Champaign, I was proud of my girlfriend, who shouted out a thank you to the men and women who are entirely overlooked in this country: the parading teachers that held up signs that said, "Math" and "English." Her shout of thanks got everybody within earshot applauding. It was touching.

I hope you had a great Independence Day. Ours was a blast, and not a misfire. And the fireworks at Parkland were the best I had ever seen. We're looking forward to next year, and this time I'm bringing my own water gun.

Want to read the Guns Save Life slogans without driving a few hundred rural miles? Go to: <http://www.gunssavelife.com/burma/burmastats.html>



Aaron Geiger/Prospectus

learned that there are smart brownies in the Greens. Prominent scientists, writers, thinkers, and even theologians have been pro-Green. So my question is this: Why did Champaign members decide to put a bunch of half-washed adults in tie-dye shirts in the parade, followed up by dreadlocked white boys? I say put a man or woman in a suit and a green tie on top of a Prius or some other eco-savvy car. Have his or her minions ride bikes, and hand out cards that have the top ten ways to reduce your carbon footprint. But no, the Green Party will never get any real respect, because nobody shaves or washes anything, and they don't seem to mesh with the working world.

The Democrats came by, promoting peace, and people clapped. The Republicans came by, promoting our Veterans

in the late 1800's, a New Yorker was entertained by an Arabian man, who "initiated" members into a secret society at the end of the evening. The American who partook in the ceremony demonstrated it to his Masonic friends, who started wearing red fezzes, held ceremonies in "mosques," and dressed and styled themselves in Moorish clothing. This fraternity has now evolved into Master Masons helping sick children while moonlighting as carnival men driving weird contraptions in parades while keeping their fezzes on their heads. Only in America.

And only in gun-happy Illinois do the Boy Scouts have a float that consists of a camouflage screen under which boys pop out and "shoot" the crowd with water guns. Yes, the Scouts learn to shoot pellet rifles and rifles that use flash powder (proba-



# Classified

PROSPECTUS  
Thursday, July 10, 2008 — Page 9

## For Rent

Efficiency rooms for rent: Near West Side Park. Includes utilities. 270-325/month. Call 398-4600.



## HEY DUDE

DUDE! DID YOU SEE THAT COMMERCIAL ON TV? THE ONE WITH THE SWEET-LOOKING LADY, WEARING A SCARF AND HAWKIN' DONUTS, BEFORE IT WAS YANKED OFF THE AIR?

WOW! TURNS OUT THAT WASN'T JUST ANY ORDINARY SCARF SHE WAS WEARIN'!... IT WAS A TERRORIST SCARF! WHO KNEW!!

APPAREL ADVISORY! DANGEROUS CLOTHING ALERT!

GOOD THING WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO SPEND TIME AND ENERGY WATCHIN' OUT FOR DANGEROUS AND SUBVERSIVE ITEMS OF APPAREL...

KEEPING AMERICA SAFE AND SECURE AND FREE FOR ALL THE NAÏVE AND UNINFORMED DUDES... TELLING US WHAT WE CAN AND CAN NOT WEAR. I JUST WISH

I HAD KNOWN ALL THIS BEFORE I BOUGHT TONS OF SCARVES FOR CHRISTMAS AND BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY GIFTS FOR ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY. (Maybe that's why they were marked down so much...)



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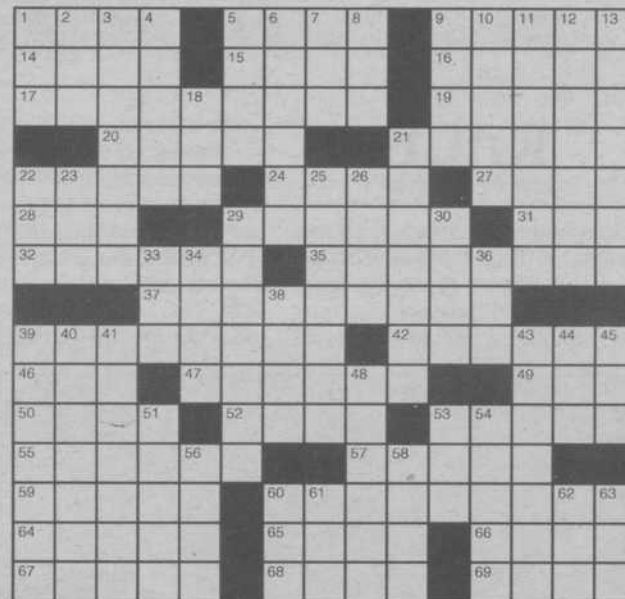
Market Place Mall.. Bergner's Wing

Ready to roll? Apply In Person.

## Crossword

- ACROSS
- Lone attendee
  - Annexes
  - Wacky Jerry
  - Rational
  - Chic Brummell
  - Single-handedly
  - Interpret
  - Vitality
  - Anguish
  - Supported
  - Wading bird
  - Advantage
  - Singer Amos
  - Clean air grp.
  - Contemptuous looks
  - Function
  - Childbirth innovator
  - Part of a gas mask
  - Historian Macaulay
  - Time-honored
  - Will contents
  - Besmirch
  - Nods off
  - sequitur
  - Going by yacht
  - Designer Schiaparelli
  - Adlai's slate-mate
  - Libra's symbol
  - Sew loosely
  - Apia's country
  - Hair-care concern
  - Utopias
  - Hammer or hacksaw
  - Slaughter in Cooperstown
  - Suit material
  - Fewer
  - Plato or Carvey

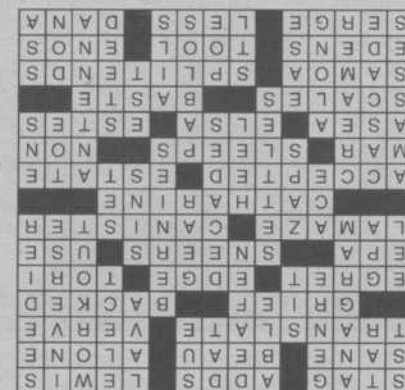
- DOWN
- Mach topper
  - Black gunk
  - Word puzzle
  - Literary category
  - Qualified
  - Overwhelm with noise
  - CD's rival
  - Writer Grafton
  - Vesuvian flow
  - Choose by a vote
  - Gym routine
  - Something opposite
  - More squalid
  - Pose for a portrait
  - Williams and Mac
  - Slippery fish
  - Coll. student's figure
  - Century tenths
  - Transmission element
  - Comes to rest
  - Misdeeds
  - Top pilot
  - Blasts
  - Matched outfit
  - Canine command
  - Accumulates
  - Mt. Ranier's range
  - Paula of the LPGA
  - Insect's feeler



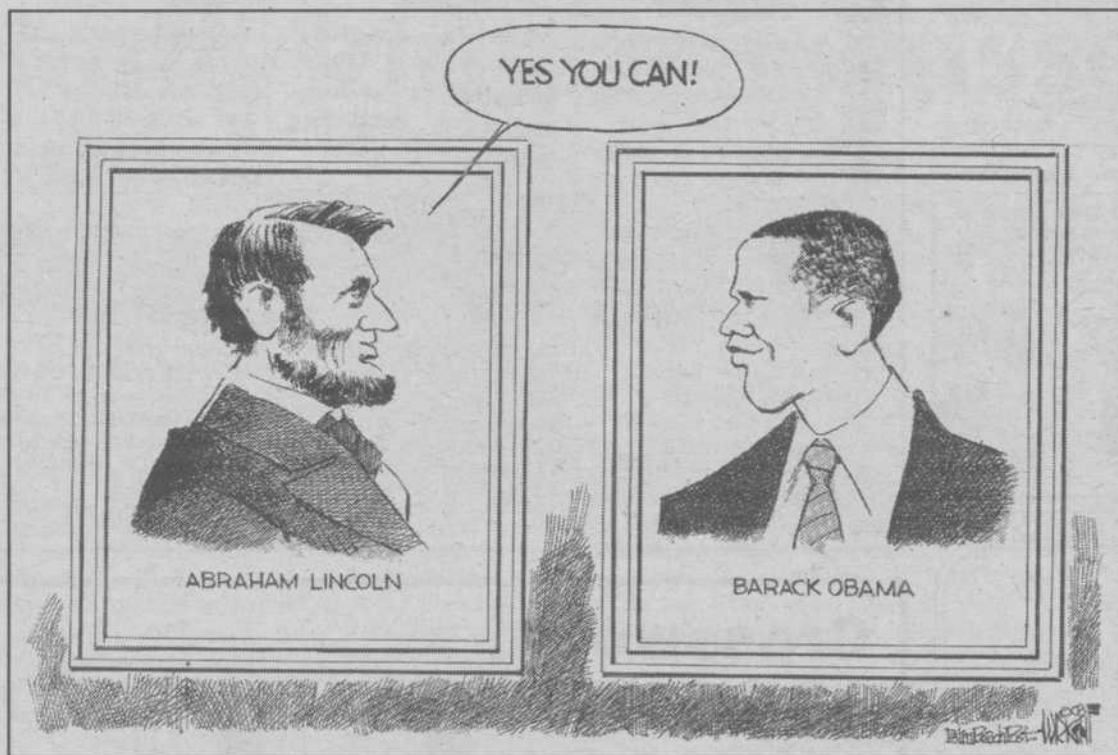
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7/10/08

## Solutions



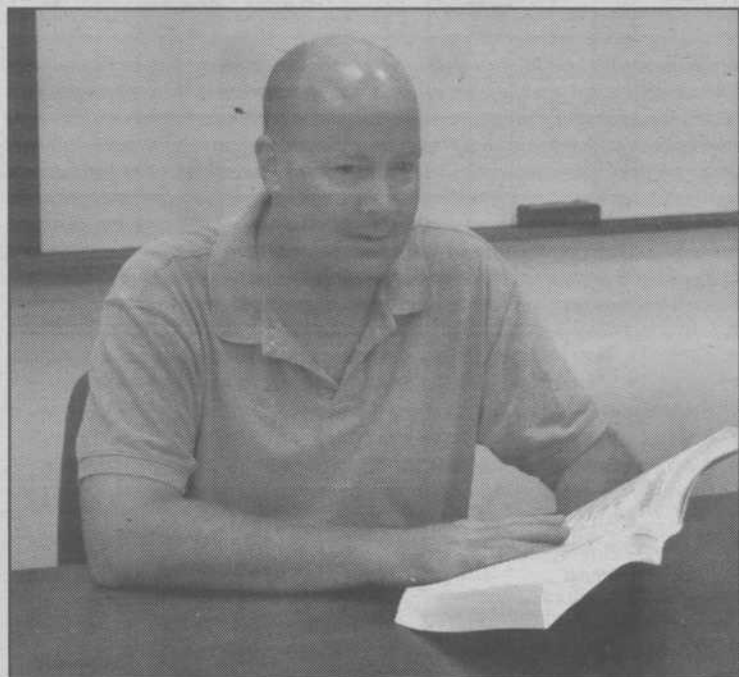
- Little piggy
- Funny pair?
- Picasso and Neruda
- As company
- Approx.
- Mighty mount
- Comfort
- Has something
- Letters on Cardinal caps
- Eerie author
- Shula or Ho
- 987-65-4321 grp.



## RACE

continued from page 3

no problem with black men in a normal setting, like in the office, at a restaurant, or at the movies. But when they act like they need to have a certain personal-



Associate Professor of Humanities Matthew Hurt believes in breaking down discriminatory walls by utilizing writing skills and having students getting to know one another.

Huamin Wang/Prospectus

ity of a thug, it scares me, and I wish there was change."

When students are thinking and feeling like this, there are different methods of approach

by teachers.

Matthew Hurt believes that in his classes, such as English 101, that writing is a good course of action to breaking down walls.

"I prefer students to work out their issues in their papers," he said. Hurt also strongly discourages the processes that students

students as the basic means to opening up communication.

"It helps when people are around in a diversified crowd, and when they have a teacher that can promote that," Harris said.

But sometimes teachers can achieve the opposite effect. Although Hales and Hurt break down walls through dialogue and writing, respectively, other teachers tend to overlook students and can cause harm.

Joseph Williams and his wife, Jayner Bryant-Williams, have been active Parkland and community members. According to Hales, Joseph was previously the president of Brother-to-Brother, an African American male support group. Jayner and Joseph have worked with Club ACCESS extensively. But in spite of their contributions, they face an uphill battle.

"It's hard for me, being an African American who can barely read. I have to go through the wringer," said Joseph. "Teachers would get frustrated with me, and they would ignore me and help out [other] students who already knew what was going on. The teachers would just give up on me. But Kevin Hales, he took time to help me out," said Williams.

"I would go to Hales' class, and my husband would sit in with me, and after a little while, Hales said, 'Let's get you signed up' to my husband, and that really helped. My husband received credit for the course. He's taken classes from Hales there times. I've taken five,"

use when they ask the question, "Can I find enough information to prove that I'm right?"

In general, Hurt prefers students should get to know other

## DEATH

continued from page 5

but what it does is stop unfair practices and money games that campus bookstores and textbook companies play.

To run a little bit with this point, I understand that textbooks aren't cheap to make. Let's be honest for a minute. How fun do you think it is to produce a textbook? I mean the thing is bulky, features tacky covers (I had a giant cow on one of my math books except instead of black splotches it had mathematical symbols. I'm not exactly the most artsy person but I remember being

struck with how offended I was that someone got paid to put a mutated cow on my math book and charge me over \$100 for it), is often abhorrently ugly and a lot of the pages contain a bunch of expensive ink and a higher quality of paper. They can't be cheap or painless to produce... especially the latter.

At the same time I think the vast majority of students just don't want to pay for a book made out of solid bronze, where every other page is a top quality photo image, and in the middle there is a CD, workbook, a coupon for \$1 off next time you spend \$100 at our bookstore. Remember when textbooks actually contained—you know—text?

Prospectus now hiring for Fall  
[editor.prospectus@gmail.com](mailto:editor.prospectus@gmail.com)

said Bryant-Williams.

The husband and wife duo have had a miraculous life, always climbing uphill to reach the point where they're going to college. They've experienced the detriments of drug abuse, alcoholism, and even prison.

"Schools like Parkland have a great role in shaping the future, especially for folks like these," said Hales.

But Joseph's learning disability and the lack of overall attention to his condition, coupled with discrimination, have led him to depression. And this year he was denied reentry back into Parkland; his wife is returning this fall.

"I owe [Parkland] a lot of money, and I feel like I don't owe them any money when the teachers are the ones telling me to drop the class," said Joseph.

"There's a difference between being a teacher and an educator.

A teacher gets a paycheck. An educator is interested in you, as a person, and your success. I know a couple of educators at Parkland, but there are a lot of teachers, too," said Jayner.

"Teachers make you or break you. It's the spirit of the teachers," she said.

"It's hearts, minds, and souls. Everybody has got one, and it's up to the person to know that it's all about hearts, minds, and souls. Then everything will be all right," said Hales.

Whether it's through writing or talking, teaching or educating, getting to know one another on a level beyond simple dialogue, there are many answers out there to facilitate the breaking down of racial and discriminatory walls. But ultimately it's up to the person to want to find which way works best, and to "look into that mirror" and, according to Hales, "not flinch."

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Balconies - Seasonal Pool

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## Weather Forecast

- Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 83.
- Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.
- Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 89.
- Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 70.
- Saturday:** Showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, high of 89.
- Saturday Night:** Showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low of 68.
- Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86.
- Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.
- Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.
- Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.
- Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 87.

## CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week, CrimeStoppers and the University of Illinois Police Department (UIPD) are seeking your assistance with solving an armed robbery. On Thursday, May 15, the victim reported he was walking on the U of I Quad when three black male subjects approached him. One of the black males displayed a knife and asked the victim to, "Walk with me." The suspect directed the victim to the area between Noyes Lab and the Chemistry Annex buildings. Once there, the suspect demanded the victim's backpack, which contained several books and the victim's U of I ID. Once the suspect had the backpack, he told the

victim to begin walking south. Once the victim was a distance away, the suspect met up with the other two suspects, and they departed the area northbound.

Suspect #1 was described as a black male in his late 20's, 5'10", thin build, black hair, brown eyes, mustache, wearing dark clothing and a hooded sweatshirt. He was armed with a knife.

Suspect #2 was described as a black male, 5'7", medium build, black hair, brown eyes, dark clothing, and wearing a mask that partially covered his face.

Suspect #3 was described as a black male, 6'2", skinny build, black hair, brown eyes,

dark clothing, and also wearing a mask that partially covered his face.

If you have any information at all regarding this crime, please call CrimeStoppers at (217) 373-TIPS or (217) 373-8477. Information can also be sent by anonymous web tip by going to: [www.champaign-countycrimestoppers.com](http://www.champaign-countycrimestoppers.com).

The information you provide is confidential. You do not have to appear in court. CrimeStoppers will pay a reward if the information you provide leads to an arrest for this crime. Cash rewards are also paid for information on other felony crimes or fugitives in the Champaign County area.

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## Deron Williams and Chris Bosh are high school foes who are now Olympic teammates

By JAN HUBBARD  
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

LAS VEGAS—After the first practice of the U.S. Olympic basketball team, Chris Bosh was seated in a folding chair about 10 feet from Deron Williams and marveling at how two guys who grew up about 30 miles from each other in the greater Dallas area are now part of the national team.

How would he have assessed the odds of that happening a few years ago?

"Slim to none," Bosh said, laughing. "You don't even think of those things when you're in high school. But it's really cool for us to have played against each other in high school, and now we have the opportunity to play together and win the gold medal."

Williams is equally excited.

"It's a great for us," he said. "It's great for the state of Texas. We're definitely proud Texans. I've known Chris since high school, and it's great to be playing on the same team with him because he's a such a great player and a great person."

Williams said that before being told how Bosh described a high school game between Bosh's Dallas Lincoln team and Williams' team from The Colony.

"We won the game, of course," Bosh said, smiling. "It was close because The Colony had a really good team. But we won, and he tried to dunk on me. He'll probably tell you that he made it, but

he didn't. They called a charge. He just couldn't pull it off."

Williams didn't disagree with the result of the play. "Nah," he said. "I missed it."

But he said that because he gives up about seven inches to the 6-foot-10 Bosh, describing the play as a simple miss isn't quite accurate.

"I didn't make a fool out of myself," said Williams, the Utah Jazz's point guard, "I barely missed it. They called the charge and the ball hit off the back of the rim. He's lucky I didn't catch him with it."

Bosh and Williams will play key roles in the Beijing Olympics and both give U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski flexibility because they are so versatile. The U.S. team, which will be in New York for promotional appearances on Monday, is carrying only one true center in Dwight Howard, so the Raptors forward will back up Howard.

And even though Williams is one of three point guards on the roster along with Jason Kidd and Chris Paul, he is big enough to play and guard opposing shooting guards. So he will probably be on the court some with Kidd or Paul.

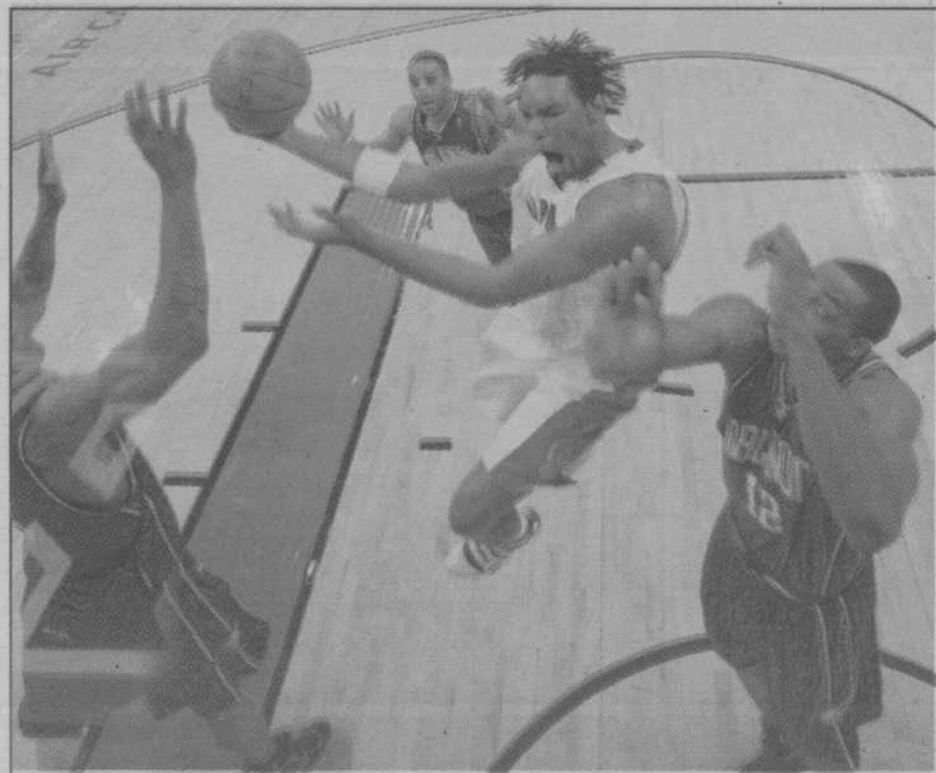
Bosh also has a score to settle with the rest of the world. He was part of the 2006 team that lost to Greece in the World Championships in Japan.

"We took everything serious," Bosh said. "Our preparation wasn't the best (but) we all learned from it. Now we don't underestimate anybody. We know that



Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams goes to the basket against the Los Angeles Lakers in the first half on Sunday, May 11, 2008. The Jazz defeated the Lakers 123-115, in Game 4 of the NBA Western Conference semi-finals at Energy Solutions Arena in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Michael Goulding / Orange County Register (MCT)



Gary W. Green / Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

we have to come out and play extremely hard every game."

Williams spent last summer playing with the U.S. team in the Olympic qualifying tournament and said the current team has learned from past mistakes. In particular, the 2004 team that lost to Argentina and settled for a bronze medal in the Athens Olympics isn't something this team wants to emulate.

"I think there were a lot of chemistry problems on that team—something I don't see happening on this team," Williams said. "I don't see that being a problem. I think everybody has checked their ego at the door."

"You can see how we have shared the ball. The leading scorer (last summer) averaged 16 points a game. There's so much balance and so much versatility that it makes a difference."

Considering how their college careers went, it's probably a little more surpris-

ing that Bosh has made the team with Williams. Both are 23 and Bosh is about three months older than Williams, but Bosh played only one year at Georgia Tech. Williams played three at Illinois.

"I saw what type of basketball player he was becoming in college," Bosh said. "He really matured fast. I don't think people saw him doing that, but he did. And now he's one of the best."

Bosh also noted that Williams plays on the better NBA team. Bosh has the memory of the victory in high school, but the Jazz has beaten the Raptors six consecutive times.

"That game in high school was a really good game," Bosh said. "But he gets most of the wins now. I guess it's evened out."